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20 MAR 1968

[redacted]  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Science and Technology  
The White House

Dear Don:

I regret that other business prevented me from attending the Project ARGO briefing which was held earlier this month, but my staff has briefed me on your presentation and the general conclusions of the experts involved. I am pleased that you emphasized the need for serious consideration of the cost and security aspects of any civilian use of the satellite photography.

All the participants in the project are to be congratulated for accomplishing so much with so little disruption of the regular exploitation of this photography for intelligence purposes.

With respect to the future, [redacted] will be my representative for liaison with [redacted] in his role as Chairman of the ARGO Steering Committee. This arrangement should take care of my two main concerns associated with Project ARGO. The first is my responsibility for the protection of this vital source of intelligence which was properly reflected in your memorandum to the participating departments and agencies. The second concern is that any use of this material for civilian purposes not compete with the collection or exploitation of satellite photography for intelligence purposes.

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I would appreciate being informed about any new applications for this photography developed by ARGO which could be useful in intelligence analysis.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Director

CONCUR: /s/ R. J. Smith  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

18 MAR 1968

Date

EWProctor:fbr (18 March 1968)

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